Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00624 051847Z

51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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R 051423Z JUN 75 FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4685 INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O.11652: DECONTROL ON RECEIPT

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE: CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE REPORT

REFERENCE: CAPE TOWN 612

- 1. LE GRANGE COMMISSION REPORT ON CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE (CI) WAS SUBJECT OF HEATED PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE JUNE 4, DURING DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED BUDGET FOR MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. PROGRESSIVE AND REFORM PARTIES DIVIDED THEIR IRE BETWEEN REPORT ITSELF AND UNITED PARTY (UP) "COLLABORATIONISTS."
- 2. DURING FIVE-HOUR DEBATE, UP LIMITED ITSELF TO THREE SPEAKERS. UP'S SHADOW MINISTER OF JUSTICE MIKE MITCHELL OUTLINED UP'S RATHER TORTUOUS POSITION, WHICH OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO SATISFY BOTH LIBERAL AND CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS WITHIN PARTY. MITCHELL STATED THAT UP STILL COMMITTED TO "RULE OF LAW" AND THAT PARTY, AS A WHOLE, NOT BOUND TO ACCEPT COMMISSION'S FINDINGS BECAUSE UP COMMISSION MEMBERS HAD ACTED AS INDIVIDUALS RATHER THAN AS PARTY REPS. SIGNIFICANTLY, MITCHELL NEITHER APPROVED NOR CONDEMNED REPORT. HOWEVER, TWO OTHER UP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00624 051847Z

SPEAKERS, LIONEL MURRAY AND BILL SUTTON, BOTH LE GRANGE

COMMISSION MEMBERS, STATED THAT THEY STOOD FIRMLY BY REPORT'S FINDINGS.

- 3. UP WENT ON THE OFFENSE BY CHARGING THAT GOVERNMENT HAD VIOLATED "RULE OF LAW" BY DECLARING CI AN AFFECTED ORGANIZATION WITHOUT ADEQUATE PRELIMINARY HEARINGS BEFORE MAGISTRATES AS CALLED FOR IN AFFECTED ORGANIZATIONS ACT. MINISTER OF JUSTICE KRUGER REFUTED THIS, STATING THAT MAGISTERIAL INVESTIGATION PRIOR TO DECLARATION OF AFFECTED ORGANIZATION DOES NOT REQUIRE FULL HEARING OF BOTH SIDES. HE FURTHER ASSERTED THAT UP KNEW THIS AND THEREFORE THEIR CHARGES THAT GOVERNMENT VIOLATING "RULE OF LAW" ARE HYPOCRITICAL AND BASELESS.
- 4. PROGRESSIVE PARTY MP DR. ALEX BORRAINE DEFENDED CI, OF WHICH HE IS A MEMBER, STATING THAT HE KNEW PERSONALLY FROM EXPERIENCE THAT BEYERS NAUDE OPPOSED VIOLENCE AND THAT CI'S GOAL IS TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICAN NATION FROM SELF-DESTRUCTIVE POLICIES OF CURRENT GOVERNMENT. NATIONAL PARTY SPOKESMAN PREDICTABLY DEFENDED REPORT AND ENGAGED IN FIERCE ATTACK ON CI AND ON NAUDE. NAUDE LIKENED TO BRAAM FISCHER AS AFRIKANER WHO COULD HAVE DONE SO MUCH FOR COUNTRY BUT HAD INSTEAD CHOSEN TO DEFAME IT.
- 5. PERHAPS MOST INTERESTING ELEMENT OF DEBATE WAS MINJUSTICE KRUGER'S STATEMENT THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD ACT HARSHLY AGAINST ANY ORGANIZATION WHICH ATTEMPTED TO CIRCUMVENT AFFECTED ORGANIZATIONS ACT BY CHANNELING OVERSEAS FUNDS TO CI. KRUGER'S STATEMENT FOLLOWS HIS OBVIOUSLY INTIMIDATORY COMMENT MADE FEW DAYS AGO IN WHICH HE SUGGESTED THAT ANY SOUTH AFRICAN CONTEMPLATING CONTRIBUTING TO CI SHOULD SEEK LEGAL ADVICE FIRST.

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TAGS: PINT, SF, CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE
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